

# MEMORANDUM

November 9, 2016  
Agenda Item 13a

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**CONTRA COSTA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION**  
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November 9, 2016

**TO:** Each Member of the Commission  
**FROM:** LAFCO Executive Officer  
**SUBJECT:** Highlights of 2016 Annual CALAFCO Conference

Commissioners, guests and LAFCO staff attended the 2016 Annual CALAFCO Conference in Santa Barbara (October 26-28) hosted by Santa Barbara LAFCO. The conference was well attended with 284 attendees, guests and speakers representing 47 of the 58 LAFCOs.

The conference theme was *Orchards to Oceans... Balancing California's Diversity* and provided a number of timely sessions. General sessions focused on water; curbing urban sprawl and preserving agricultural lands; and LAFCO and State legislative overrides. Breakout sessions covered cutting edge trends (GIS/public policy/future challenges); AB 8 – realignment of property tax revenues and services; city incorporations (case studies); growth and development (demographic and governance changes); CEQA; and disadvantaged communities.

The conference drew a number of expert speakers including Mark Cowin - California Department of Water Resources, Serena Unger - American Farmland Trust, Randall Wilson- California Strategic Growth Council, Carolyn Chu – Legislative Analyst's Office, Michael Latner - Political Science & Public Policy Professor, Dr. David Lopez Carr – Geography Professor, Anton Favorini-Csorba, Consultant – State Governance & Finance Committee and a number of LAFCO Commissioners and staff from around the State.

The keynote speaker was Jean-Michel Cousteau, Explorer, Environmentalist, Educator, and Film Producer. Honoring his heritage, in 1999 Jean-Michel founded *Ocean Futures Society*, a non-profit marine conservation and education organization, which serves as a “voice for the ocean.” Jean-Michel is an impassioned ambassador for the environment. He has produced over 80 films, and received numerous awards and acclaims. Look for his newest film *Secret Ocean 3D* – coming soon.

The conference also included a mobile workshop, LAFCO 101, the annual beer & wine reception, regional roundtable discussions, the annual CALAFCO business meeting, the annual awards ceremony, CALAFCO Board of Directors meeting, and a CALAFCO legislative update. Conference material is available on the CALAFCO website at [www.calafco.org](http://www.calafco.org).

We are pleased to announce that Contra Costa LAFCO was the recipient of two awards. Commissioner Tatzin was named the 2016 “Outstanding Commissioner” for his role in facilitating a number of complex reorganizations and his work as a member of the Policies & Procedures Committee; and Contra Costa County took home the Bronze medal (red wine category) – thank you, Commissioner Piepho! In addition, Commissioner McGill was re-elected to the CALAFCO Board of Directors (Special District seat) representing the Coastal Region. Congratulations to all and staff thanks the Commission for the opportunity to attend.